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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Order of the Sons of Temperance.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

Fortieth Annual Session

OF THE NATIONAL DIVISION,

Held at HALIFAX, N. S., in July, 1884.



BY

SAMUEL F. CARY,

SENIOR P.M.W.F.

HALIFAX, N.S. :

W. TREARSTON, PRINTER, 171 BARRINGTON STREET,
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EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF NATIONAL DIVISION.

"Rep. P. Monaghan, of Nova Scotia, moved that two thousand copies of the Historical Address of Past Most Worthy Patriarch, S. F. CARY, be printed for distribution.

"P. M. W. P., LOUIS WAGNER moved to refer the motion to the Committee on Publications with full powers, including the power of revision and correction, in conference with P. M. W. P., S. F. CARY, and it was so ordered."—Page 3244.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

ORDER OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Our most worthy brother, SIR LEONARD TILLEY, was expected to have occupied the position assigned to me this evening. I regret that his official duties, as a member of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, prevent his attendance, and that a substitute was necessary.

So rapid is the flight of time, and so gradual, yet so certain, the changes in human affairs, that it is difficult to realize that more than a generation has passed since our Order had a National existence. Very few are living who witnessed its birth, and its present membership know little of its early history. A satisfactory record of its struggles, trials, and achievements would fill a large volume. I cannot hope to do more than to give a brief sketch, a mere outline, of its origin and progress, its changes and modifications, its successes and reverses.

THE ORDER OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE originated in the necessities of the hour. The various eras of the temperance reform had one after another spent their vitality and energy. The "Washingtonian" movement had swept over our land like a moral tornado, giving sight to the blind, healing to the broken-hearted, deliverance to the captives, a year of Jubilee. Miracles of healing had been wrought, and many hoped that the millennium had dawned! But the storm spent its force, a calm succeeded, and tens of thousands who had resolved upon a better life returned to their old habits. The tide of ~~sy~~ ^{reform} flow and began to ebb. There was no place of refuge. The widespread ~~ap~~ ^{appeal} perance who had taken the pledge inquiry Philanthropy made of all "shall we go up?" The Order of the tricolored flag, with the inscription "FIDELITY" glittering upon its folds, came to the rescue. A glance at its rise and progress

On the 29th September, 1841, was the birthplace of the Order. These fortunate men were OLIVER, W. B. TOMPKINS, JAMES OLIVER, THOS. EDGERLY, GEO. MCK SWENARTON, F. W. WOLFE, J. H. HOLMAN, HENRY LLOYD, and EP

they have dreamed of the future of the infant in that cradle ! New York Division, No. 1, Sons of Temperance, was organized, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and a committee appointed to report a suitable ceremonial. Several preliminary meetings were held, and on Friday evening, October 7, the Division was formally organized. The officers elected and installed were :

DANL. H. SANDS,	<i>Patriarch.</i>
EPHM. L. SNOW,	<i>Associate.</i>
JOHN W. OLIVER,	<i>Recording Scribe.</i>
JAMES BALE,	<i>Financial Scribe.</i>
GEO. MCKIBBEN,	<i>Treasurer.</i>
THOS. EDGERLY,	<i>Conductor.</i>
THOS. SWENARTON,	<i>Sentinel.</i>

The Order was now equipped for service. At the next meeting eleven were initiated, and eleven others proposed for membership. This Division constituted itself the "Fountain Head," and assumed the power of granting charters until a Grand Division could be organized. On the 2nd of December following, a circular, calling the attention of the friends of temperance to the new organization, was issued through the temperance press. This address set forth the plan and objects of the Order, and invited the sympathy and co-operation of all who loved the cause and who desired to see its success assured. It announced the objects of the new Order to be

- 1st. "To shield its members from the evils of intemperance ;"
- 2nd. "Afford mutual assistance in case of sickness ;"
- 3rd. "To elevate their characters as men."

Five men were chosen by the New York Division, No. 1, who, with the Patriarch and Associate, were to organize the Grand Division of New York and exercise the functions of the "Fountain Head," grant charters, organize Divisions, install officers, etc. This Grand Division was instituted December 10, 1842. DANIEL H. SANDS was elected and installed Grand Patriarch.

NATIONAL DIVISION.

Charters were granted to organize Subordinate and Grand Divisions in other States. The Order was thus planted in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts, and on the 17th June, 1844, the Grand Patriarchs and Grand Associates of these Grand Divisions met in New York City and organized the NATIONAL DIVISION OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF NORTH AMERICA.

DANIEL H. SANDS, who had been Chairman of the committee of sixteen, the first Patriarch, the first Grand Patriarch, was elected and installed Supreme Patriarch. This branch of the Order was organized with a jurisdiction of six Grand Divisions, seventy-one Subordinate Divisions, and about six thousand members. It is worthy of a passing remark, that an application for Newark Division, No. 1, of New Jersey, was made before the New York Division was a month old. January 8, 1844, the Grand Division of New Jersey received its Charter and was duly instituted, January 25. March 5 the Grand Division of Maryland was instituted ; April 26 the Grand Division of Pennsylvania ; May 10 the Grand Division of Connecticut, and June 10 the Grand Division of

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Massachusetts. All these Divisions were organized by Bro. John W. Oliver, of New York, except that of Massachusetts, which was instituted by Samuel Ellis, of Massachusetts. Charters had been granted for Grand Divisions in Virginia and District of Columbia, but they had not been fully constituted at the time of the organization of the National Division.

From the beginning of the Order the qualifications for representatives to the Grand Divisions were the same as now. The Grand Worthy Patriarchs and Grand Worthy Associates only were eligible for election to the National Division. At the fourteenth Session, held in Providence, R.I., in 1851, acting Grand Scribes were made eligible, and at that Session all members of Grand Divisions in good standing were admitted into the National Division as visitors upon taking an obligation. The rule was afterwards so modified that acting and Past Grand Scribes who had served two years were eligible to seats in the National Division.

The National Division was regularly incorporated and made a legal body by the Legislature of New York, June 29, 1882.

The second Session of the National Division was held in the city of New York, June 11, 1845. Four new Grand Divisions were reported, making ten in all. These were those of Virginia, Ohio, District of Columbia, and Maine. There were 194 Subordinate Divisions and 17,000 members. The titles of the officers of the National Division were changed from "Supreme" to "Most Worthy."

The third Session of the National Division was held in New York City, June 10, 1846. Three more Grand Divisions were reported: Delaware, Indiana, and Tennessee. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 14 Grand Divisions, 650 Subordinate Divisions, and 40,000 members. A grand public procession, with music and banners, in which over 10,000 Sons of Temperance in their beautiful regalia participated, was had in the City of New York on the 9th June. It was indeed a national jubilee, and no such spectacle had ever been witnessed in connection with the temperance reform. A grand national salute was fired on the battery, the bells of the city of New York and Brooklyn were rung in concert. It was said that this display was the most powerful temperance sermon ever delivered up to that time. At this session, PHILLIP S. WHITE, of Pennsylvania, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The fourth Session of the National Division was held in Philadelphia, June 16, 1847. Nine more Grand Divisions were reported, as follows: North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire and Louisiana, making 22 Grand Divisions, 1,300 Subordinate Divisions, and 100,000 members. At this Session it was declared that the "true intent and meaning of the pledge was to prohibit the manufacture, sale and use of all alcoholic or intoxicating liquors as a beverage, whether enumerated by name in the pledge or not." This interpretation has never since been modified.

The fifth Annual Session was held in Baltimore, June 20, 1848. Eight more Grand Divisions were reported, viz: South Carolina, Alabama, New Brunswick, Mississippi, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nova Scotia, and Vermont making in all 30 Grand Divisions, 2,654.

Subordinate Divisions, and 149,372 members. It is noticeable that at this Session the British Provinces united their destinies with the States, and resolved to march under the same banner, bound together with the same triple cord of Love, Purity and Fidelity. From that good hour the most perfect cordiality of sentiment and unity of action have existed. Every member, true to his own nationality and loyal to his own civil government, has been also loyal to the same national jurisdiction of our Order. Not one circumstance has occurred to even suggest a wish to separate and form independent jurisdictions. So may it ever be, is the deep sentiment of every brother, on both sides of the national boundaries. We cheerfully share with each other in the discharge of the duties of the Order and in enjoying the honors awarded for faithful service. At this Session, S. F. CARY, of Ohio, was elected M.W.P.

The sixth Annual Session was held at Cincinnati, on the 15th May, 1849. Five more Grand Divisions were reported, as follows: Texas, Arkansas, Prince Edward Island, Florida, and Canada West. There were then reported 35 Grand Divisions, 4,398 Subordinate Divisions, 221,478 members.

The seventh Session was held in Boston June 11, 1850. The M. W. S. reported 39 Grand Divisions, 5,563 Subordinate Divisions, and 232,233 members. They also reported that the Grand Division of Great Britain had been instituted. JOHN W. OLIVER, of New York, was installed M.W. P.

The eighth Session was held in Toronto June 11, 1851. On account of some unpleasant feeling it was thought best to divide the jurisdiction of New York into two parts. Accordingly charters were granted to Eastern New York and Western New York, both bearing date of the original charter. The territory was satisfactorily divided. This added another Division, making 36 Grand Divisions, 6,097 Subordinate Divisions, and 238,903 members. This was the zenith of the Order, so far as members are concerned.

The ninth Annual Session was held at Richmond, Va., June 3, 1852. Grand Divisions had been organized in Newfoundland, California, and Canada East. The M. W. S. reported 40 Grand Divisions, 5,946 Subordinate Divisions and 221,056 members. The HON. JOHN BELTON O'NEALL, of South Carolina, was elected Most Worthy Patriarch.

The tenth Session was held in Chicago, June 8, 1853. New Grand Divisions were enrolled from Minnesota and the Cherokee Nation. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 42 Grand Divisions, 1,808 Subordinate Divisions, and a membership of 198,985.

As the World's Temperance Convention was to be held in September of this year a special session of the National Division was provided for, to be held in New York at that time. Every member of the National Division was appointed a delegate to that convention.

The eleventh Session was held in St. John, New Brunswick, June 15, 1854. The Grand Division of Eastern Tennessee was enrolled. 43 Grand Divisions, 4,222 Subordinate Divisions, and 152,090 members were reported.

An application was made and granted for the establishment of

a National Division in Great Britain. By the terms of the agreement of separation it was mutually agreed that the National Division of Great Britain should have a perfect independence, except that the pass words and cards should be common, and supplied by the National Division of North America. It was further stipulated that the pledge should never be changed. This National Division was instituted April 26, 1855. S. L. TILLEY, of New Brunswick, was elected and installed Most Worthy Patriarch.

The twelfth Session was held in Charleston, S. C., June 6, 1855. The Grand Division of Minnesota had been dropped from the list. 41 Grand Divisions, 3,543 Subordinate Divisions, and 134,176 members were reported.

The thirteenth Session was held in Lexington, Ky., June 4, 1856. The Most Worthy Patriarch being absent, Charles Eginton, Most Worthy Associate, of Kentucky, occupied the chair. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 41 Grand Divisions, 2,957 Subordinate Divisions, and 99,172 members. M. D. McHENRY, of Kentucky, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The fourteenth Annual Session was held in Providence, R. I., June 8, 1857. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 41 Grand Divisions, 2,051 Subordinate Divisions, and 71,233 members.

The fifteenth Session was held in Indianapolis, June 9, 1858. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 41 Grand Divisions, 1,981 Subordinate, and 64,508 members. Six Grand Divisions failed to make returns. BENJAMIN D. TOWNSEND, of South Carolina, was installed Most Worthy Patriarch.

The sixteenth Session was held at Philadelphia, June 1, 1859. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 41 Grand Divisions, 1,985 Subordinate Divisions and 76,422 members. Most Worthy Patriarch Bro. Townsend, gave an interesting sketch of the Order, and alluded to the causes of decline.

The seventeenth Session was held in Portland, Me., June 7, 1860. 41 Grand Divisions, 2,398 Subordinate Divisions, 94,213 members were reported. The Most Worthy Patriarch of the National Division of England and Ireland, JOSEPH THOMAS, was in attendance at this Session, and was most cordially welcomed. He reported 50 Subordinate Divisions, two Grand Divisions, and a National Division in good condition.

Most Worthy Patriarch Townsend in his message showed that in the 12 years just preceding, there had been initiated 755,847 members. That the Subordinate Divisions had collected during the same time \$5,084,477, and that they paid out in benefits \$1,415,465. That no other philanthropic or benevolent institution had collected as much money, or could exhibit such results. That even the American Bible Society, sustained by all religious denominations, with its agencies and vast printing establishment, had collected a million of dollars less in the twelve years. SILAS L. CONDUCT, of New Jersey, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch at this Session.

The eighteenth Session was to have been held in Nashville, Tenn., in 1861, but it was found impracticable on account of the civil war. Most Worthy Patriarch Conduct, upon full conference with

members of the National Division, designated Hamilton, Canada, as the place, and June 18, 1862 as the time for holding the 18th Session. At this Session, 42 Grand Divisions, 2,013 Subordinate Divisions, and 89,862 members, were reported. SAMUEL L. CARLETON, of Maine, was elected Most Worthy Patriarch.

The nineteenth Session was held in Halifax, N. S., June 11, 1863, (twenty-one years and one month ago.) The Most Worthy Scribe reported 28 Grand Divisions, 1409 Subordinate Divisions, and 55,788 members. Of course not a single State ravaged by war made any report. Regimental Divisions were organized in the army, and many brothers were thus enabled to withstand the temptations incident to their situation.

The twentieth Session was held at Cleveland, Ohio., June 16, 1864. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 30 Grand Divisions, 1,358 Subordinate Divisions and 55,736 members. J. J. BRADFORD, of Kentucky, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

It is proper to say that the 29th of September, 1863, the 21st anniversary of the birth of the Order, was appropriately celebrated by a great gathering in Cooper Union, New York. BRO. STEARNS gave an interesting sketch of its birth and the years of its minority.

The twenty-first Session was held at New Haven, Conn., June 14, 1865. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 31 Grand Divisions, 1223 Subordinate Divisions, and 57,207 members. At this Session a charter was granted for the establishment of a National Division in Australia on the same terms and basis as that formed in Great Britain.

Seven members of the National Division were appointed to represent the Order in the Temperance Convention to be held at Saratoga Springs, August 1, 1865.

The twenty-second Annual Session was held at Montreal, June 21, 1866. 35 Grand Divisions, 1,096 Subordinate Divisions, and 54,762 members were reported. JOHN N. STEARNS, of Eastern New York, was installed Most Worthy Patriarch.

The twenty-third Session was held in Wilmington, Del., June 19, 1867. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 37 Grand Divisions, 1,467 Subordinate Divisions, and 72,375 members.

The twenty-fourth Session was held in Nashville, Tenn., May 20th, 1868. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 35 Grand Divisions, 1,753 Subordinate Divisions, and 92,646 members. R. M. FOUST, of Pennsylvania, was installed Most Worthy Patriarch.

The twenty-fifth Session was held in Washington, D. C., June 9, 1869. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 39 Grand Divisions, 1,968 Subordinate Divisions, and 96,673 members.

The twenty-sixth Session was held in Newark, N. J., June 20, 1870. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 40 Grand Divisions, 1,970 Subordinate Divisions, and 91,814 members. STEPHEN B. RANSOM, of New Jersey, was elected Most Worthy Patriarch.

The twenty-seventh Session was held in Boston, September 6, 1871. 43 Grand Divisions, 1,969 Subordinate Divisions, and 96,964 members were reported.

The twenty-eighth Session was held in Chicago, June 19, 1872. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 34 Grand Divisions, 1960 Subordinate Divisions, and 93 877 members. OSCAR D. WETMORE, of New Brunswick, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The twenty-ninth Session was held in New York City, June 18, 1873. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 36 Grand Divisions, 1753 Subordinate Divisions, 82,729 members.

The thirtieth Session was held in Ottawa, Canada, June 17, 1874. 36 Grand Divisions, 1836 Subordinate Divisions, and 82,299 members were reported. F. M. BRADLEY, of the District of Columbia, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The thirty-first Session was held at Providence, R. I., July 14, 1875. 39 Grand Divisions, 1976 Subordinate Divisions, and 88,102 members were reported.

The thirty-second Session was held at Philadelphia, June 14, 1876. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 39 Grand Divisions, 1985 Subordinate Divisions, and 89,319 members. LOUIS WAGNER, of Pennsylvania, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The thirty-third Session was held in Detroit, Mich., June 20, 1877. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 42 Grand Divisions, 1905 Subordinate Divisions, and 77,088 members.

The thirty-fourth Session was held at Buffalo, N. Y., June 18, 1878. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 39 Grand Divisions, 1685 Subordinate Divisions, and 71,501 members. GEORGE W. ROSS, of Ontario, was chosen Most Worthy Patriarch.

The thirty-fifth Session was held in Washington City, June 17, 1879. 37 Grand Divisions, 1,505 Subordinate Divisions, and 61,916 members were reported.

The thirty-sixth Session was held in Cincinnati, June 15, 1880. Most Worthy Scribe reported 37 Grand Divisions, 1,393 Subordinate Divisions, and 52,408 members. EVAN. J. MORRIS, of Ohio, was elected Most Worthy Patriarch.

The thirty-seventh Session was held at Saratoga, June 23, 1881. 36 Grand Divisions, 1,156 Subordinate Divisions, and 47,715 members were reported—the greatest declension ever attained.

The thirty-eighth Session was held at Concord, N. H., July 12, 1882. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 38 Grand Divisions, 1,149 Subordinate Divisions, and 49,732 members. BENJAMIN R. JEWELL, of Massachusetts, was elected Most Worthy Patriarch.

The thirty-ninth Session was held at Ocean Grove, N. J., July 11, 1883. The Most Worthy Scribe reported 38 Grand Divisions, 1,286 Subordinate Divisions and 55,880 members.

At this the fortieth Session we have under our jurisdiction 38 Grand Divisions, about 1,400 Subordinate Divisions, and a membership of 73,000, showing a gratifying increase the past year. It may be confidently claimed that the Order is one of the Institutions which has come to stay.

EARLY ACTIVE WORKERS GONE.

Not a member of the three first Sessions now occupies a seat in this body, and I am the only representative of the fourth Session.

which met in Philadelphia in 1847 present at this fortieth Session. Most of them have rested from their labors. It has been my good fortune to participate in the deliberations of twenty-two Sessions of the National Division. Bro. THOS. CHUBBUCK was initiated into this branch of the Order as a representative from Vermont (now of Massachusetts) at the fifth Session held in Baltimore in 1848, and has attended twenty-four Sessions since.

BRO. SAM'L. W. HODGES became a member at the special session in New York City in 1853, and has attended nearly all of its Sessions since. Eighteen years he officiated as Most Worthy Scribe. There are several others who have attended a large number of Sessions, but I have not had time to examine their record.

NECROLOGY.

Of the twenty-two who have occupied the highest office not one has died in office, and fourteen of the number still survive. Six have completed their labors and have passed to their reward, viz :—DAN'L. H. SANDS in 1853, O'NEALL in 1863, CONDIOT in 1864, WHITE in 1866, BRADFORD in 1878, and FOUST in 1881. Two of the whole number lost their connection with the Order. JOHN W. OLIVER, one of the illustrious sixteen who stood over its cradle and was most zealous and active in the early days of the Order, and its fifth Most Worthy Patriarch, has dropped out of the Order, but has remained true to his pledge.

PHILIP S. WHITE, the second Most Worthy Patriarch, was a lawyer of great ability, and a brilliant orator. He had been quite intemperate. After he became a Son of Temperance he devoted much of his time, for several years, to its interests. He labored extensively through the South and West and in the British Provinces. As an orator, he had few equals, and by his persuasive eloquence he contributed largely to the increase of our membership. In an evil hour he yielded to temptation, and fell before the power of the destroyer. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

DAN'L. H. SANDS, Chairman of the sixteen, the first officer in every branch of our Order, was a plain man, a mechanic, unostentatious, retiring in his disposition, full of love for his fellow-men. He died in 1853, after seeing the Order he loved in successful operation.

The HON. JOHN BELTON O'NEALL, the fifth Most Worthy Patriarch, had been for many years a conspicuous advocate of temperance in South Carolina, his native State. He was Chief Justice of South Carolina when elected Most Worthy Patriarch, and had been for nearly thirty years, and continued in that high position until his death in 1863. He died full of years and of honors, in the darkest hour of the civil war. His demise was hastened by the calamity which befel his country which he loved so well. In his inaugural address, when installed as Most Worthy Patriarch, he used this language: "I love our common country, North as well as South of Mason and Dixon's line, and I trust the sun that now shines upon these United States as one people, and upon our neighbors, the British, as our friends, will never be darkened by disunion amongst us, or of enmity against them."

BROS. CONDUCT, BRADFORD, and FOOST, who have gone hence, made brilliant records in their lives of usefulness, and their works follow them. Their virtues will be cherished, and when the record of the world's moral heroes is made up their names will be found therein.

MOST WORTHY SCRIBE.

This is the most important office in the Order. Much depends upon the faithfulness and efficiency of this officer. The National Division and the whole Order have been fortunate in having the office ably filled, as is evidenced by the fact that only three persons have filled that chair in forty years. Bro. F. A. Fickardt, of Pennsylvania, served sixteen years; Bro. Saml. W. Hodges, of Massachusetts, eighteen years; and Bro. H. S. McCollum, of Canada, the present incumbent, completes his fourth year at this Session.

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS.

These have undergone great and radical changes, from time to time, with the exception of Art. 2, which contains the pledge of total abstinence. This has never been altered in a single word.

BENEFITS.

The beneficial feature of the Order was regarded by its founders as second only in importance to the pledge itself. None were admitted under eighteen years of age, and, as any member was liable to become a beneficiary, infirmity and old age were disqualifications. This beneficial feature, so prominent at first, soon became a source of embarrassment. Unworthy persons, who cared nothing for temperance, sought admission, with no other motive than to avail themselves of its pecuniary advantages. Much of the time of the Divisions was taken up in discussing and settling claims upon its funds. The weekly dues required were found to be insufficient to meet the demands upon the treasuries. Many who had entered the Order on account of its supposed efficiency in promoting temperance, finding the time wholly occupied with monetary affairs, became discouraged and disgusted, and dropped out of the Order. Those who had joined from selfish motives, when they found their treasuries bankrupt, lost their interest and disappeared. In my annual message at the sixth Session (in 1849) I urged the abolishment of the beneficial system, and the leaving of the needy and unfortunate to be relieved by the generosity of Divisions. The receipts of the previous year had been nearly one million of dollars. This money had been largely squandered upon idlers and worthless men, who were a burden to the Order. I suggested that one third of that sum would have kept one hundred and fifty lecturers in the field at a salary of \$1,000 each, and would have printed and circulated one hundred million pages of temperance tracts. At that Session the Constitution was so amended as to leave the whole subject of benefits to each Grand Division respectively. This finally resulted in a general abolishment of the system, and in a very large increase in membership for the succeeding two or three years.

MEMBERSHIP.

After the beneficial system was changed there was a growing

disposition to enlarge the boundaries of membership, and admit younger persons and both sexes. The admission of women to the Order was agitated in the early years of its history. At the eleventh Session, held in St. John, it was determined to admit women over sixteen years of age to Subordinate Divisions as visitors, by a two-third vote of the members, at such times as may be deemed appropriate, upon being proposed, ballotted for, and taking a prescribed pledge. They were not allowed to vote or hold office. At the thirteenth Session, the age of sixteen was stricken out and the words "over fourteen" inserted. At the fourteenth Session, ladies were admitted to the National and Grand Divisions as visitors, provided they sustained the relations of either mother, wife, daughter or sister of a member present.

The subject of admitting women to full membership was discussed at almost every Session. A ritual for their admission as visitors was adopted, which provided for the ladies participating in the initiation of other ladies. So from time to time the relations of the ladies to the Order became more and more enlarged, until finally, at the twenty-second Session, the ladies were admitted to full membership, and equally entitled to share in its offices and honors. Lady visitors, however, are still admitted in some jurisdiction.

COLORED MEMBERSHIP.

The question of admitting persons of color to the Order was mooted quite early in our history. It was difficult to keep it out of any organization, either social, political or religious. In 1844 an application was made to the Grand Division of New York for the formation of a new Division to be composed of colored persons. It was made, not to promote the cause of temperance among persons of color, but to force the question of social equality upon the Order. The granting of the charter was refused. The Grand Division of Ohio admitted a colored person into that body in 1849, for the same object. A committee of the Grand Division of Ohio reported "that it was contrary to the original intention of the founders of our Order, socially wrong, to compel the whites to associate with the blacks, contrary to the higher interests of the Order, and at war with its harmony and prosperity." This report was adopted, and the decision was appealed from to the National Division. The National Division, by a vote of seventy-four to six, sustained the action of the Grand Division of Ohio. The subject was not introduced out of sympathy for the colored race, but to agitate. After the colored people were allowed to organize independently and to have our ritual, there was no longer much opportunity to agitate and disturb the harmony of the Order.

We now have two Grand Divisions of colored members, and a large number of subordinate Divisions. Since the changed condition of the colored race and their elevation to citizenship in the Republic, the prejudices against color are gradually disappearing, and the fact that they are politically equal and have the rights of citizens should influence us to be especially anxious to enlist them in the work of the Order. Most Divisions initiate them, recognizing no distinction on account of color. Their Representatives occupy seats in several Grand Divisions, and in the National Division.

DEGREES.

The subject of degrees was discussed before the National Division was organized, and while the Grand Division of New York was acting as the "Grand Fountain Head," but no action was taken. At the third Session, the brothers from Maryland urged the subject upon the consideration of the National Division. It was declared inexpedient to legislate upon the subject, or in any way interfere with the severe simplicity of the Order. At subsequent Sessions it was discussed, and with the same result. So persistent and determined were the brethren of Maryland, that the Grand Division of that State in 1853, resolved that if the National Division did not authorize the establishment of degrees, that it would institute them in its jurisdiction. At the tenth annual Session, authority was given to the Grand Division of Maryland to institute three degrees, and submit them to the National Division at its next Session. At the eleventh Session, the degree ritual of Maryland was submitted, and after making some amendments, it was approved and permission given to each Grand Division to introduce them into its jurisdiction at its option, and if so introduced that each Subordinate Division might use them if so voted. In many of the jurisdictions the degrees were introduced. At the thirteenth Session, Most Worthy Patriarch McHenry in his annual message said: "The institution of degrees has not met with general favor, or at all answered the expectations of its friends," and that "even in Maryland the Order had lost half of its membership in the three years it had been using them." The degree ritual gradually fell into disuse. A second edition was never printed, and in a few years the whole subject became a theme of the past.

REGALIA AND RITUAL.

The regalia and emblems of the Order remain the same as when first adopted.

The ritual first adopted by the Grand Division of New York, prepared by Mr. Nack, a deaf-and-dumb man, was not changed by the National Division. Its language and style were peculiar, with no pretensions to great literary merit. It, however, was a great favorite, and by its frequent repetition in the initiation of hundreds of thousands, the language became familiar to the active members, and the officers repeated their parts without cards or books. When the excitement began to die out and the interest began to wane, it was thought a new ritual would infuse new life and give a new impetus to the onward march of the Order.

At the seventh Session, held in Boston it was resolved that the question of the desirableness of a new ritual be submitted to Grand Divisions. At the next session, held in Toronto, a majority of the Grand Divisions reported in favor of a new ritual. A committee was appointed on new ritual, and a prize of \$500 offered for the best new ritual, as determined by the committee.

The committee reported at the ninth session: that no satisfactory one had been submitted. A prize of \$1,000 was offered and Oliver, Cary and Eginton were appointed, with full authority to adopt any new ritual, or to select portions of those presented, and divide the prize equitably among the contesting authors.

A number of works were presented to the committee. After a protracted session they determined to make selections from each and prepare portions themselves. They had a few copies printed and distributed in the different jurisdictions for trial, and reported their action to the eleventh Session in 1853.

This ritual was, with great unanimity adopted. Many Subordinate Divisions attached to the old ritual with which they had been so pleasantly familiar were dissatisfied, and at several subsequent Sessions of the National Division efforts were made to restore the old ritual, or permit Divisions to use either. At the thirteenth Session the whole ritual question was referred to a committee consisting of Bros. Fickardt, Cary and Eginton, to report at the next annual session. At the fourteenth Session, held in Providence, R. I., the committee reported a revised and amended ceremonial of initiation, embracing parts of both the old and the new, and this was unanimously adopted. Subsequently other changes and modifications were made, and so revised as to be more appropriate for the initiation of both sexes.

TEMPLE OF HONOR.

From the inception of the Order to the present, those who have guided its destinies have kept constantly in view the great purpose of its institution, viz: The advancement of the cause of Temperance. When the beneficial feature absorbed too much of the attention of the membership, it was modified, then abolished. The simplicity, beauty, and impressiveness of its ceremonies have been jealously guarded. Efforts from time to time to establish degrees and captivate lovers of literary display, have signally failed. It has however, kept pace with the progress of the age and the demands of the hour, as is evidenced by the enlargement of its borders so as to admit women to full membership and to participation in its duties and honors. As early in our history as 1845, some good members of the Order conceived the idea of establishing a higher and more advanced organization called the "Temple of Honor." None were eligible to membership but those who had been Sons of Temperance in good standing for one year. An elaborate ritual was adopted, remarkable for its ornate and classic language. Signs, grips and passwords were incorporated. It was designed as a select adjunct of the Order. For years the Templars sought the recognition of the National Division as an advanced branch of the Order. Intent upon preserving the Democratic principle, and recognizing every member as the equal of every other, all efforts to engraft the "Temple of Honor" upon the Order of the Sons of Temperance failed.

When it was settled that it could not be annexed it became an independent Order, and no longer demanded as a qualification for membership a year's probation as a Son of Temperance. It entered upon the work of proselyting, and in some instances so weakened the numerical strength of Divisions that they were compelled to disband, and give place to this new candidate for popular favor. The era of its prosperity was brief, but long enough to obliterate many Divisions of the Sons of Temperance. This Order is still in existence, but is small in numbers yet influential for good.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Another out growth from our Order was the Good Templar organization. Many prominent Sons of Temperance were very active and energetic in their efforts to build up this new organization. They believed that it would re-enlist many who had grown cold in the cause of Temperance, and had dropped out of the Order of the Sons. Naturally and necessarily there was a divided interest with those who belonged to both Orders. In many cases weak Divisions were swallowed up, and in some localities the two organizations destroyed each other. Without impeaching the motives of the founders and supporters of the new Order, and fully recognizing the great and good work accomplished by it, it is a grave question whether its establishment was not a mistake. The Grand Lodge of Good Templars was instituted in 1855. It is very certain that this new Order greatly reduced the number of Divisions and of members of our Order, and impaired its usefulness and efficiency. Having the same great philanthropic object in view, if the older Order was deficient in its methods or plans they could have been easily remedied or supplied. It is true that the field is large enough, and the work to be done is of sufficient magnitude, to employ a hundred more of such agencies, yet it may be doubted whether a solid column under a single leadership would not be more effective than a guerilla warfare with divided counsel. Whether well or ill advised, we must accept the situation, gird on our armor anew, and move steadily forward until our purpose is accomplished—"a sober world." We need not care by what agencies the end is accomplished, and we only allude to the Good Templar organization as one of the causes of our diminished numbers.

ADVENTITIOUS AID.

With the view of rendering the membership in the Order more stable, and extending its usefulness, prominent members procured a charter in 1879, and organized "The Sons of Temperance Mutual Relief Society," with an office in Washington City. The object was and is to insure the lives of members of the Order, who remain true to the pledge, upon a basis similar to organizations related to Masons, Oddfellows, Knights of Honor, etc. While the National Division fully sympathizes with this movement, and has given its approval by recommending it to the favorable consideration of the membership, it has not in any way become responsible for its management.

CAUSES OF DECLINE.

It has been the experience of all associations of men having for their object the elevation of society, to have periods of success and of decline. It will not be pretended that our organization is perfect, or that its methods have always been wise, but it is claimed that its deficiencies and mistakes may be supplied and corrected. We have already alluded incidentally to some of the causes which have crippled our usefulness and retarded our progress. They may be briefly summarized as follows:

1st. The vice against which our Order proclaimed an insurrection had been for ages entrenched in the habits and customs of the people, and fostered, cherished and protected in both Church and State.

2nd. Some good and earnest temperance workers had their

conscientious scruples against secret societies, and would not become members of the Order.

3rd. Its too rapid growth in its early years; all ranks and professions poured their contributions into our Division rooms, and many unworthy members necessarily found their way in.

4th. The beneficial feature of the Order increased its members at first, but impaired its efficiency, and subsequently depleted its membership.

5th. The introduction of rival organizations, dividing our influence and weakening our strength.

6th. The introduction of the question whether colored men should be admitted to membership, gave rise to bitter discussion, engendered bad feelings, and produced alienation.

7th. The neglect of Divisions in their days of prosperity and full treasuries to provide their own permanent places of meeting and the establishment of libraries. Often-times they rented rooms and fitted them at large expense—rooms which their depleted treasuries compelled them to relinquish.

8th. The Civil war between the North and the South opened afresh the flood-gates of intemperance and immorality all over the Republic. It brought brothers face to face in deadly conflict, and literally wiped out the Order in the country desolated by hostile armies.

9th. The absorbing interest among members of the Order to secure legislation against the liquor traffic made many desert their Division rooms, and give their whole time and energies to the subject of prohibition. The large majority of our membership are warmly in favor of prohibitory laws, but to be for or against license or prohibition has never been made a test of membership.

THE FUTURE.

None of these hindrances are insurmountable; none are inherent in the Order itself. And there are no good reasons why we should have our confidence in ultimate success weakened. The Christian religion, which embraces in its scope the interests of this and a future life, has been slow and fitful in its progress. After nearly nineteen centuries of struggle and sacrifice the Sun of Righteousness only gilds a few hill tops, while all around and beneath are darkness and gloom. In all the terrible conflicts with evil a few must bear the brunt of the battle. These are the world's moral heroes, and they must wait patiently for their reward. Forty years have passed since this branch of our Order was organized. It has established itself as a power for good not only in the United States and British Provinces, but Subordinate, Grand and National Divisions exist in Great Britain and Australia. Without any change in form or in substance, our Order is adapted to every condition of society and every form of civil government. Wherever the curse of intemperance exists, there the Order of the Sons of Temperance should be welcomed and established as a saving power.

This Institution began in feebleness, and, thus far sustained amidst prejudice and opposition, we hope may become like the Banyan tree of India. Springing on this soil, its "branches" shall take root, and under its shade the kindred of the earth may repose.

